(c) the production of zinc and lead during the last three years;

(d) the steps taken by the Hindustan Zinc Ltd. (HZL) in the matter of exploration and exploitation of zinc, lead and other base and precious metals during the 8th Plan; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL & MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) The Total recoverable reserves of Lead-Zinc Ores in the country Stands at 1,86,316,000 Tonnes as on 1.4.1993.

(b) The total installed capacity in the organised sector for production of primary Zinc is 1,79,000 TPA and for primary Lead is 81,800 TPA.

(c) The total production of primary Zinc and Lead in the organised sector during the last three years is indicated below:—

(Units in Tonnes)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Zinc	143962	148424	141374
Lead	35179	44993	40311

(d) and (e) The major projects taken up by Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) for exploration/exploitation of Zinc, Lead and other base and precious metals during the VIIIth Plan period are as follows:—

(i) Expansion of Rampura-Agucha mine and beneficiation plant in Rajasthan from 3000 TPD to 4500 TPD.

(ii) Exploration activity at Jagpura gold prospect in Rajasthan.

(iii) Signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with M/s. BHP Minerals, Australia and M/s. Niugini Mining Limited (NML), Australia for exploration and/or exploitation of base and precious metals. The proposal with M/s. BHP Minerals has been approved by the Government.

Financial assistance for construction of godowns for revamped PDS in Gujarat

1763. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) number of godowns of upto 2000 MT capacity which have so far been constructed in the RPDS areas of Gujarat State with Central financial assistance, for storing essential commodities meant for PDS in such areas with district-wise details thereof;

(b) whether Government have received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat for increasing the number of such godowns in the State and request for increasing Central assistance; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the decision Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) State Government has reported that the following godowns have been constructed in RPDS areas in Gujarat State with Central Financial Assistance for storing essential commodities:

No.	Taluka	District	Storage capacity in M.T.
1994-95			
1.	Vav	Banaskantha	1000
2.	Nandod	Bharuch	1000
3.	Dediapada	Bharuch	1080
4.	Khamba	Amreli	1000
1995-96			
1.	Ahwa	Dang	250
2.	Valia	Bharuch	250
3.	Dayapar	Kutch	500
4.	Lakhtar	Surendranagar	250
5.	Zalod	Panchamahal	250

1996-97

1.	Sami	Mehsana	500
2.	Dhanara	Banaskantha	500
3.	Tharad	Banskantha	500
4.	Radhanpur	Banaskantha	500
5.	Songadh	Surat	500
6.	Sagbara	Bharuch	500
7.	Gadhada	Bhavnagar	500
8.	Rajula	Amreli	500

(b) No proposal of State Government is pending with Central Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Investigations into Irregularities in SAIL

1764. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked CBI to look into allegations of irregularities levelled against the S commercial alliances between 19 1994;

(b) if so, the details of commercial alliances held by SAIL between 1992 and 1994;

(c) whether Government propose to investigate and take action against the involved officials of SAIL who conducted irregularities in the allotment of steel to various traders; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL & MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) Allegations of irregularities, as and when received, are inquired into and action taken on merits. Ministry of Steel has not asked for any CBI enquiry; there is no specific scheme known as commercial alliance under which SAIL supplies materials to its customers. SAIL has in fact various schemes in vogue under which it supplies materials to its customers. All the eligible customers under the various schemes are allowed to book the materials uniformly without any discrimination. The schemes which SAIL operated during the year 1992-93 to 1994-95 under the extant guidelines are as under:—

Year	Schemes
1992-93	— Demand Registration scheme
	— Annual Booking scheme
	— Long Term Booking scheme
	— Quarterly Booking scheme
1993-94	— Annual Booking scheme
	— Long Term Booking scheme
	— Quarterly Booking scheme
	— Memorandum of Understanding scheme
	— Continuous Booking scheme
1994-95	— Memorandum of Understanding scheme
	— Annual Booking scheme
	— Quarterly Booking scheme
	— Continuous Booking scheme

Decline in Export of Agricultural Products from Orissa

1765. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a steep decline in the export of agricultural products in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to increase the export of agricultural products; and

(d) the details thereof?